



## Oregon State Parks: Integrated Park Services Division

### *South Beach and Beverly Beach Management Units Plan*

### *Public Meeting I Notes*

February 18, 2015

Meeting began at 5:30pm and ended at 6:30pm

OPRD Staff in attendance: Patti Green, JR Collier, Jaime English, Ian Matthews, Ben Hedstrom.

See sign in sheet for public attendance.

OPRD Planning staff members Jaime English and Ian Matthews introduce themselves and welcome people to the meeting.

Introductions are made around the room.

JE describes the scope of the plan, and goals for today:

- 1) OPRD Mission
- 2) Overview of the state park planning process
- 3) The Parks
- 4) Discussion and Comments
- 5) Next Steps

IM gives a brief overview of some of the qualities of each park included in the plan (11 properties in the Beverly Beach MU and 15 properties in the South Beach MU)

JE describes the survey that attendees have been asked to fill out.

Question: Are all these properties identified on a state highway map?

The ones with formalized access are.

Group Discussion: The audience was asked to reflect on the following questions. This survey is also available online at [southbevparksplan.com](http://southbevparksplan.com).

*The first thing that I think of when someone mentions the Central Oregon Coast is?*

- Scenery
- Beaches
- Agate hunting
- Friendly people you meet
- Coastline

- Public Access, significantly more than other states
- Views
- Sunsets
- Dramatic
- Fishing and shellfish
- Diversity of this area, a lot of public access trail systems, large variety of recreation activities and this is unique.

*The thing I value most about State Parks on the central coast are?*

- Public access to the shoreline
- No fees for day use and parking
- Maintain local access so you feel that it's a part of your town. In CA it's \$10-15 to park your car, and it makes locals feel like they don't belong.
- Huge value for economic base, year-round attraction. People come here that might not otherwise come
- The amount of accessibility for everyone, so many parks in the area, string of parks.
- The cleanliness of the beach
- Other park systems are fighting for funding, this is a resource that is like a fire department. It doesn't cost a lot, but hard to do without

*The benefits I get from visiting state parks on the Central Coast?*

- Mental health.
- Recreation.
- You feel a sense of belonging, connection to others.
- The diversity of people on the coast.
- Portal into the beach, a safe way to experience the beach (like another state park might be a portal into the wilderness)

*Changes?*

- Need to replace the interpretive panels at Devil's Punchbowl, and the panel that was vandalized at Otter Crest.
- Seal Rock and a couple others get crowded, maybe add parking? The campgrounds are full.
- Continue the element of affordability you want to maintain.
- It's nice to have a full range of people in the campsites, tents, bikes.
- More of a learning experience in the parks, more interpretive signs.
- The whale watching volunteers are a great asset.
- Volunteers are very impressive, they are very good and they help a lot.
- A need for safe bike riding routes. There is a huge lack of areas to ride bike on the coast. In Newport, the bay road works but otherwise you are taking your life into your own hands.

Question: Are you including all the properties in this plan?

Yes

Question: Have you received any requests to make the beach more accessible?

*One idea that has been tossed around is that we could make the beach more accessible for one day if not all days, with a temporary, scheduled ramp or other facility. But we will be looking at opportunities*

Maybe a concessionaire can provide a natural resource friendly accessible option, vehicles or otherwise.

*Yes we think that's a great idea.*

Does the parks department partner with organizations like the Surfriders and the Oregon Shores Conservation Program?

*Yes right now we have active agreements with Oregon Shores, Midcoast Watershed Council, Nature Conservancy, 4-5 with Surfrider, just off the top of my head. This is for debris removal, monitoring for natural resource needs, etc.*

Add?

Comment: Can you add more camping places?

Comment: My objection to adding campsites that is that we only have a two lane highway. You have to understand the impact on the local residents. We can't handle any more traffic at certain time of the year.

*The intention with Brian Booth was to add camping in the south county where congestion is not as much of an issue.*

Keep?

- Accessibility, we value it and everyone who comes here values that
- Day use accessibility, if you need to generate some cash sell coffee but I don't want to see everyone get nickel and dimed at every step of the way.
- Some locations may not have camping but there's not anything to eat near Seal Rock, that could be a way to make money.
- Let's maintain what we have, not sacrifice what we have to pay for a new site.

Question: Does state parks get any federal grants?

From time to time, Land and Water Conservation Funds, others.

Any other thoughts?

Question: Will this plan have anything to do with Tsunami zones?

*We will definitely be looking at emergency evacuation routes and how to plan for emergencies, and if there are opportunities to improve the current routes.*

JE described the next planning steps and ways to stay involved.

At the next meeting OPRD will:

- Share assessments of the natural, cultural, scenic, and recreational resources in the parks
- Double check the values and benefits that were heard through the public process
- Ask the public to weigh in on the initial park needs, opportunities, and constraints